

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION		
CHILD ABUSE		6409
ADOPTED: July 28, 2017	REVISED:	MONITORING: Review: Annually

Each authorized charter school shall post the toll-free telephone number operated by the Department of Children's Services in a clearly visible, public location that is readily accessible to students. The sign shall be on paper of eight and one-half inches (8 ½") by eleven inches (11") or larger. The current toll-free Department of Children's Services abuse telephone number shall be in large, bold print and placed at eye level to the student for easy viewing. Additionally, the sign shall instruct students to call 911 for emergencies and provide directions for accessing the Department of Children's Services web site for more information.ⁱ

Reporting. All personnel of the school shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse or neglect.ⁱⁱ Child abuse is defined as any wound, injury, disability, or physical or mental condition which reasonably indicates that it has been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect. Staff members having knowledge or suspicion of any child who is suffering from abuse or neglect shall report such harm immediately.^{1,iii} The report shall be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction or to the county office of the Department of Children's Services or to the office of the chief law-enforcement official where the child resides.^{iv} The report shall include:^v

- (1) The name, address and age of the child;
- (2) The name and address of the parents or persons having custody of the child;
- (3) The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and
- (4) Any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse or neglect.

The identity of the person reporting shall remain confidential except when the juvenile court determines otherwise.^{vi}

The school shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.^{vii}

Investigations. School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate and provide assistance and information in child abuse investigations^{viii}, including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while the child is at school; the school leader may control the time, place, and circumstances of the interview, but may not insist that a school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or another student. The school leader is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents/guardians that the child is to be interviewed even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.^{ix}

Legal References:

ⁱ Public Acts of 2016, Chapter No. 802

ⁱⁱ T.C.A. § 37-1-412

ⁱⁱⁱ T.C.A. § 37-1-403(a)(1)

^{iv} T.C.A. § 37-1-403(a)(2)

^v T.C.A. § 37-1-403(b)

^{vi} T.C.A. § 37-1-409(a)(1)

^{vii} TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(e)

^{viii} T.C.A. § 37-1-611(b)

^{ix} Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 87-101 (June 9, 1987)